

CLAIMS

1. An easy open can end comprising a circular centre panel with a rupturable score line therein, the score line defining the periphery of a non-removable tear panel,  
a non-detachable tab having a nose portion and a rear portion, and  
a connection between the tab and the centre panel which acts as a pivot about which the tab can be rotated out of the plane of the centre panel, such that in use, (the rear portion<sup>20</sup>) of the tab is lifted to cause the nose portion<sup>21</sup> of the tab to press down on (the tear panel<sup>11</sup>), thereby rupturing the score line and swinging the tear panel out of the plane of the centre panel to create an opening, the opening having a major axis and a minor axis, the minor axis<sup>12</sup> located on a diameter of the centre panel (and the major axis<sup>13</sup>) located perpendicular to said diameter,  
characterised in that  
the diameter of the centre panel is less than 1.835 inches (46.6 mm) and the opening has an area of less than 0.5 square inches (323 mm<sup>2</sup>) and an aspect ratio (major axis : minor axis) of between 1.3 and 1.7.
2. An easy open can end according to claim 1, wherein the opening is elliptical.
3. An easy open can end according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the aspect ratio of the opening is about 1.5.

4. An easy open can end according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the centre panel lies below the level of the outer circumference of the end and the side wall, between the centre panel and said outer circumference, is inclined at an angle of between 20° and 60° to the plane of the end panel.
5. An easy open can end according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tear panel further comprises a bead which substantially follows the periphery of the score and the nose portion of the tab.
6. An easy open end according to claim 5, wherein the bead on the tear panel is closed.